Introduction of short-haul air operation

648. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to encourage short-haul air operations with 20-30 seater planes on select sectors;

(b) if so, the name of the sectors identified for short-haul operations;

(c) whether Government propose to offer facilities to non-scheduled operator to ensure connectivity with remote areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (d) Air Transport Operators are free to operate to any station/sector in India in accordance with the conditions of their permits.

IA losing business to private airlines

649. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines is fast losing out to the private sector airlines as per domestic passenger traffic trends;

(b) if so, whether the gap between IA and private airlines widened last year, with IA registering 41.3 per cent market share and private airlines together gathering 55.4 per cent share of the market;

(c) if so, what are the main reasons for the same;

(d) what steps the Indian Airlines are taking to compete with the private sector; and

(e) whether these private sector airline's are providing better services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPADYESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) During the year 2002, percentage share of Indian airlines *vis-a-vis* scheduled private airlines was 42.5% and 57.4% respectively. The loss of market share of Indian Airlines to the competitors is due mainly to the capacity induction by the private airlines in the last few years, in excess of demand.